

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 OIC-04 /183 R

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4/13/73 EXT.21655

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R 190018 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073035

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 55 TH SESSION ECOSOC PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WEST ASIA

REFERENCE: (A) USUN 1271, (B) USUN 3293, (C) USUN 3409,
(D) BEIRUT 4268

1. WE FRANKLY SEE NO SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS POSED IN REFTTEL
EXCEPT TO POSTPONE ISSUE UNTIL POLITICAL SITUATION IN
MIDDLE EAST PERMITS ISRAEL AND ARAB COUNTRIES TO SIT
TOGETHER IN A REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH
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WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION THIS QUESTION, WE AGREE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE OUR LIMITED BARGAINING CAPITAL FOR OTHER MORE MANAGEABLE ISSUES. AS AN AID TO DETERMINING OPTIONS, YOU SHOULD DISCREETLY EXPLORE ALONG LINES INDICATED BELOW AND REPORT RESULTS ALONG WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

(A) WHAT ARE VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATES WHO COULD BE HELPFUL? IS LEBANON STILL DETERMINED TO BRING ISSUE TO A HEAD AT SUMMER SESSION? (REF. D)

(B) WHAT IS SECRETARIAT'S THINKING ON LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED? WHAT ARE PROCEDURES THAT CAN BE USED IN GETTING A LEGAL OPINION ON QUESTIONS INVOLVED, AND HOW LONG COULD THIS DELAY THE MATTER?

(C) WHAT ARE VIEWS OF ISRAELI DELEGATION? IS IT CONCEIVABLE IT WOULD SETTLE FOR A COMPROMISE IN WHICH IT

COULD JOIN AT SOME FUTURE DATE, ALTHOUGH AGREEING INFORMALLY IT WOULD NOT APPLY AT THE PRESENT TIME?

(D) DO ARAB STATES HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH UNESOB'S OPERATIONS AND COULD THEIR PROBLEMS BE ALLEVIATED UNDER THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM? OR IS THEIR MOTIVE IN WANTING TO CHANGE ITS STATUS POLITICAL AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY IMPROVING ITS OPERATIONS? (UNESOB SEEMS TO BE OPERATING WITH REASONABLE EFFECTIVENESS NOW AS FAR AS THE ARAB STATES ARE CONCERNED AND WE SEE NO MATERIAL BENEFIT IN SEEKING CHANGE IN PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.)

2. DEPT WOULD NOT WISH CONSIDER RECONSTITUTING PRESENT REGIONAL COMMISSIONS SINCE AMONG OTHER THINGS THIS MIGHT WELL RESULT IN REDUCED ROLE FOR NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS OF ECAFE AND POSSIBLY ECE AND ECLA AS WELL. THIS WOULD NOT BE IN U. S. INTEREST SINCE OPENING QUESTION COULD CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVES. MOREOVER ISRAEL HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED BE COUNTED AMONG WEOS THOUGH IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE "OTHERS" AND ITS ASPIRATIONS RE ECAFE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REBUFFED BY THAT BODY. RECONSTITUTION THEREFORE WOULD APPEAR OFFER NO SOLUTION FROM ISRAELI STANDPOINT. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE073035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AYODER/ PSK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730451/aaaaiwqn.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 1271, USUN 3293, USUN 3409, 73 BEIRUT 4268
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980202
Subject: 55 TH SESSION ECOSOC PROPOSED ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WEST ASIA
TAGS: AORG, UN, AORG, ECOSOC
To: BEIRUT
GENEVA
TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005